

Appl. No.: 10/699,974
Amd. dated October 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 13, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical without disconnecting the cutting head and the shaft wherein the connection means defines a rotational axis about which the cutting head is rotatable relative to the shaft so that ~~is such that~~ the cutter means is movable between the substantially horizontal position and the substantially vertical position by an effective rotation of the cutting head relative to the handle of 120° in one direction or 240° in the other direction relative to the axis ~~, the shaft having a hand-grippable portion at a distal end of the shaft furthest from the cutting head, the arrangement being such that the line joining a point within the hand-grippable portion and the connection means is substantially parallel to the plane of rotation of the cutter means and the hand-grippable portion and the elongate shaft are generally aligned parallel to a plane that contains an edge of an area to be cut when the rotational axis of the cutter means is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongated shaft.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection means is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical in a single movement.

Claims 3-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the rotatable joint is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical about a single axis.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the axis of rotation of the rotatable joint lies substantially at 35.5° to the plane of rotation of the cutter means, and lies substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical without disconnecting the cutting head and the shaft, the shaft having a hand-grippable portion at a distal end of the shaft furthest from the cutting head, the arrangement being such that the line joining a point within the hand-grippable portion and the connection means is substantially parallel to the plane of rotation of the cutter means and the hand-grippable portion and the elongate shaft are generally aligned parallel to a plane that contains an edge of an area to be cut when the rotational axis of the cutter means is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongated shaft, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint and, wherein the rotatable joint is constituted by a ball-and-socket joint.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 22, wherein the ball is fixed to the cutting head, and the socket is defined by a generally spherical socket portion formed at the end of the shaft remote from the hand-grippable portion.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 23, further comprising a motor for driving the cutter means.

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Claim 25 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cutter means is rotatable, and the drive engagement between the motor and the cutter means is a rotatable drive engagement.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, a motor for driving the cutter means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical without disconnecting the cutting head and the shaft, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint that is constituted by a ball-and-socket joint, wherein the ball is fixed to the cutting head, the socket is defined by a generally spherical socket portion formed at the end of the shaft remote from the hand-grippable portion, and the motor is housed within the ball, the shaft having a hand-grippable portion at a position remote from the cutting head, the arrangement being such that the line joining a point within the hand-grippable portion and the connection means is substantially parallel to plane of rotation of the rotational axis of the cutter means is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongated shaft.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 26, wherein the motor is an electric motor.

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Claim 28 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a rotatable cutter line constitutes the cutter means.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a wheel rotatably mounted on the cutting head.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the axis of rotation of the wheel is substantially coincident with the axis of rotation of the cutter means.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 30, wherein the radius of the wheel is of the order of, but slightly less than, the effective radius of the cutter means.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being adjustably mounted with respect to the shaft by connection means that defines a rotational axis about which the cutting head is rotatable relative to the shaft, the connection means enabling the cutter means to be moved between substantially vertical and substantially horizontal positions by adjusting the position of the cutting head relative to the shaft by an effective rotation of 120° in one direction or 240° in the other direction relative to the axis.

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Claim 33 (previously presented): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being rotatably mounted with respect to the shaft by means of a rotatable joint whose axis of rotation lies substantially at 35.5° to the plane of rotation of the cutter means, and lies substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical.